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HB 282 RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAWAII ALTERNATE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Statement for
House Committee
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing - 20 February 1981

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HB 282 would establish a new energy agency to expedite the development of Hawaii's alternate energy resources. The statement on HB 282 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Under Section, 1, Definitions, Item (1) "Alternate energy resource" we note that "hydroelectric" is not listed. "Hydroelectric" should be added to the list of natural renewable alternate energy resources.

Though the time for an action oriented "Hawaii Alternate Energy Development Authority" may not have yet arrived, future crisis in the world oil scene may dictate that the State play a stronger role in accelerating renewable energy development. This Authority could function similar to the Hawaii Housing Authority in making lower cost financing available for needed energy projects such as hydroelectric systems. It could provide the needed leadership and funding for the submarine cable program to interconnect the islands, especially for transmitting geothermal energy from Hawaii to Oahu.

The "Authority" could work with private enterprise wherever possible but would ensure that the needed renewable energy would be brought on line where private enterprise was unwilling to do the needed job.

In conclusion, full consideration should be given to the feasibility and desirability of establishing a "Hawaii Alternate Energy Development Authority."